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Allies and Nazi Troops on Amphetamines

During World War II, both Allied and Nazi troops used amphetamines to enhance their performance on the battlefield. The Nazis distributed a methamphetamine called Pervitin to their soldiers, which helped them stay awake and alert for extended periods. This drug was particularly prevalent during the Blitzkrieg invasions, allowing German troops to march and fight for days without rest.

The Allies, upon discovering the effectiveness of Pervitin, began using their own version of amphetamines. American and British soldiers were given Benzedrine, an amphetamine that helped combat fatigue and maintain alertness. This "pharmaceutical arms race" was driven by the intense demands of the war, with both sides seeking any advantage to improve their soldiers' performance.

These substances had significant short-term benefits but also posed long-term health risks, including addiction and severe side effects.

The use of amphetamines during the war

highlights the extreme measures taken to gain an edge in such a brutal and demanding conflict.